

Guidelines for Long Term Care, Assisted Living and other Licensed Residential Facilities to Monitor and Prevent Spread of Novel H1N1 (Swine) Influenza

- **Please contact your county health department listed at http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/local_health/health_depts.htm whenever you have questions or need help.**
- Educate ALL staff and patients/residents of licensed facilities on best practices for preventing influenza spread. These include
 - Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
 - Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Patients/residents with influenza like illness (ILI) [defined as fever $\geq 37.8^{\circ}\text{C}$ (100°F) PLUS cough and/or sore throat] should be placed in a room without room mates, if possible. If not possible, maintain a minimum of 6 feet between patients/residents at all times and offer both the ill person and the room mate(s) surgical masks to decrease the likelihood of spread.
- Patients/residents with ILI should refrain from participation in group activities, group meals, and activities involving exposure to the general public.
- Limit visitors of patients/residents with ILI to those persons who are necessary to the care and social well-being of the ill individual. Visitors of people with ILI should be offered a surgical mask and instructed on its use.
- Residents/patients/clients participating in outpatient programs who develop ILI should not attend these programs until 24 hours after symptoms have resolved.
- Staff of ADHS-licensed facilities with ILI should stay home 7 days after symptoms began or until all symptoms are gone, whichever is longer.
- If you determine there is significant spread of influenza in your facility, call your county/tribal health department. The definition of “significant spread” will depend on your facility, staffing, patient mix, administrative policies, and other key factors.
- If the facility determines that there is significant spread of influenza among its patients/residents or staff, consider limiting all facility visitors to those who are necessary for the care and well being of patients/residents.
- Monitor the proportion of staff with ILI who are absent due to illness to assist the facility in making the determination to further limit visitation.
- Monitor the proportion of residents/patients who are ill with ILI to assist the facility in making the determination to further limit visitation.
- Review your internal disaster plan to ensure you are prepared for large numbers of ill staff or patients.
- ADHS strongly recommends that anyone who works in an ADHS-licensed facility get both seasonal and novel H1N1 (Swine) Influenza vaccines.
- For updated recommendations and information about novel H1N1 Influenza (Swine Flu), visit <http://www.azdhs.gov/flu/h1n1/index.htm> If you have licensing questions, please contact your licensing program at ADHS.
- If you have questions about flu, please contact your county/tribal health department.